

\_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
(Primary Sponsor)

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING A SPECIFIC APPROPRIATION TO FUND THE GRANT OF GENERAL FUND MONEY TO AN INDIAN TRIBE OR COMBINATION OF TRIBES THAT HAVE IMPLEMENTED A NEW TRIBAL FAMILY ASSISTANCE PLAN; STABILIZING THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT FUNDS; MAKING FUNDED GRANTS TO INDIAN TRIBES CONTINGENT UPON THE RECEIPT OF REQUIRED REPORTS; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 53-4-210, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 53-4-210, MCA, is amended to read:

**"53-4-210. Tribal family assistance plan.** (1) As used in this section, "Indian tribe" means an Indian tribe that has a federally recognized governing body carrying out substantial governmental duties and powers over any area.

(2) The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 612, authorizes an Indian tribe or a combination of tribes to request federal approval to implement a tribal family assistance plan.

(3) If a Montana Indian tribe or a combination of tribes receives approval to implement a tribal family assistance plan and chooses to base their share of the federal temporary assistance for needy families block grant on the same federal fiscal year 1994 service population as they plan to serve under their tribal family assistance plan and the department has received an appropriation for temporary assistance for needy families maintenance of effort based upon historic state expenditures, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 609(a)(7)(B)(iii), that is at least equal to the appropriation for maintenance of effort that the department would have received prior to any reduction for the implementation of a separate tribal family assistance plan by the tribe or combination of tribes, then the legislature shall continue to provide the Indian tribe or combination of tribes with a proportionate state share for cash benefits ~~based on~~ according to the temporary assistance for needy families maintenance of effort

level ~~established by the legislature for that biennium or the maintenance of effort level set in statute~~ based upon historic state expenditures.

(4) The Indian tribe or combination of tribes retain eligibility to form a partnership with the department and share funding for approved special projects related to welfare reform.

~~(5) The For a period of 1 year after the approval of the tribal family assistance plan, the department shall provide the Indian tribe or combination of tribes with a reasonable level of technical assistance at no cost in the form of eligibility and case management training, policy interpretation, and automated system background information. The technical assistance must be provided at no cost to the Indian tribe or combination of tribes for a period of 1 year after the inception of the tribal family assistance plan.~~ After 1 year, the Indian tribe or combination of tribes may contract with the department for continued technical assistance.

(6) The tribe or combination of tribes may contract with the department for the provision of participant services or associated administrative functions that the tribe and the department find appropriate.

(7) The department shall ~~transfer grant~~ to each Indian tribe or combination of tribes implementing a new tribal family assistance plan after April 28, 1999, \$100,000 of general fund money ~~from existing general fund appropriation authority for each of the fiscal first 2 years of the succeeding biennium for the use of each tribe implementing a family assistance plan~~ during which the Indian tribe or combination of tribes implements a new tribal family assistance plan if:

(a) the department has received a specific appropriation to fund the \$100,000 annual grant to an Indian tribe or combination of tribes that has implemented a new tribal family assistance plan under this section;

(b) the department has received an appropriation for temporary assistance for needy families maintenance of effort based upon historic state expenditures that is at least equal to the appropriation for maintenance of effort that the department would have received prior to any reduction for the implementation of a separate tribal family assistance plan by the Indian tribe or combination of tribes; and

(c) the Indian tribe or combination of tribes has submitted to the department all required reports in a form that is satisfactory to the tribe or tribes and the department."

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated from the general fund to the department of public health and human services \$400,000 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, to grant to an Indian tribe or combination of tribes \$100,000 during each of the first 2 years that the tribe or combination of tribes implements a new tribal family assistance plan under 53-4-210.

(2) Any funds that are appropriated in subsection (1) that are not expended for the specified purpose must revert to the general fund.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell band of Chippewa.

**NEW SECTION.** **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2005.

- END -